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## **Seed Cost Reimbursement For First-Time Camelina Growers**

HELENA, Mont. -- Farmers who plant camelina for the first time can get their seed costs reimbursed if they farm in the 32 counties of northern and eastern Montana covered by WIRED Montana's Agro Energy Plan.

The reimbursement program covers camelina seed costs of up to \$1.30 per pound for a minimum of 10 acres and a maximum of 80 acres at seeding rates of 3 to 5 pounds per acre.

The purpose is to encourage growers to gain experience planting camelina at a time when high wheat and barley prices might tempt producers to forego rotation crops, says Adam de Yong, project director of WIRED Montana's Agro Energy Plan. The program is funded by a Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Several companies are seeking to develop an oilseed industry in Montana based on production of camelina as a rotation crop. Camelina sativa is a small-seeded crop in the brassica family that also includes canola, mustard and broccoli. Research at Montana State University has shown camelina to be a promising dryland crop for use in biodiesel and other bio-products.

Forms to apply for camelina seed cost reimbursement are available from Bio-Product Innovation Centers at Havre, Joliet, Lewistown, Sidney and Wolf Point. Additional information about camelina is available from the Montana Department of Agriculture website at [www.agr.mt.gov/camelina](http://www.agr.mt.gov/camelina) and from Tracey Jette, Bio-Product Innovation Centers network coordinator, at (406) 262-5923 or by email at [agr@mt.gov](mailto:agr@mt.gov).

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